

Five Key Points on Setting Delta Environmental Flows

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State Water Resources Control Board

Informational Proceeding on Delta Flow Criteria

Five Key Points

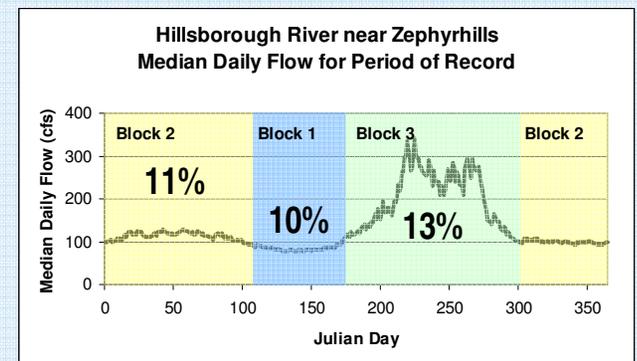
1. **Environmental flows are more than just volumes of inflows and outflows**
2. **Recent flow regimes both harm native species and encourage non-native species**
3. **Flow is a major determinant of habitat and transport**
4. **Recent Delta environmental flows are insufficient to support native Delta fishes for today's habitats**
5. **A strong science program and a flexible management regime are essential to improving flow criteria**



Setting Environmental Flows in Florida

“The minimum flow for a given watercourse shall be the limit at which further withdrawals would be significantly harmful to the water resources or ecology of the area.” Section 373.042 Florida Statutes

- Hydrograph Building Block Approach
- Daily Time Step
- Percent of Flow Reduction
- Significant Harm = > 15% Habitat Reduction
- Physical Habitat Simulation (PHABSIM)



Setting Estuarine Environmental Flows in Texas

- “basin and bay expert science team shall develop environmental flow analyses and a **recommended environmental flow regime** for the river and bay system ... through a **collaborative process designed to achieve consensus**”
- “must consider all reasonably available science, without regard to the need for the water for other uses, and ... the **recommendations must be based solely on the best science available**”
- Texas Water Code §11.02362 (m)

Senate Bill 3 - 2007



Setting Estuarine Environmental Flows in Texas (continued)

- **Statewide Environmental Flows Science Advisory Committee**
- **Bay/Basin Expert Science Team**
- **Address Seasonal and Yearly Fluctuations**
- **Support a “Sound Ecological Environment”**
- **Maintain Productivity, Extent, and Persistence of Key Habitats**
- **Stakeholder Committee and State Agencies (TCEQ)**

